

# The News and Herald.

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Memoirs, Traditions and History of  
Rocky Mount and Vicinity.

(Written for The News and Herald  
by L. M. Ford.)

## I.

### FACE OF THE COUNTY.

Before the advent of the white man these hills were an open forest, destitute of undergrowth and covered with wild peavines from one to two feet high, while great cane brakes grew to great height on the creek and river bottoms. The woods were made noisy by the chattering of the cat squirrels and the fox squirrel made his home in the pine and waxed fat on its juicy cones. Numbers of wild turkeys stalked leisurely through the forest partaking of the daintiest morsels only. Deer browsed and gambled on the hillside unmolested, while the more ferocious animals such as the wild cat, panther etc., made their homes in the swamp on the streams. In winter blackbirds and wild pigeons visited the hills in vast numbers and ducks and geese could be seen gliding on the surface of every stream. The streams teemed with fish of many varieties. Occasionally Indian wigwags could be seen clustered about a spring near some stream.

### NAMES.

When the first settlers came here they found a tribe of Indians who made their home on the banks of our river and its tributaries. They were called Catawba and from them the river took its name, Catawba. As such it is known from its source in North Carolina to the mouth of Wateree creek where it changes to Wateree. The Indians called their river Eswa Tavora. These Indians were friendly to the settlers from the first and have held sacred every obligation entered into and every treaty made. They fought on the side of the patriots in the Revolution and on the side of the Confederates in our late war. A remnant, less than a hundred, still live on a reservation in York County on the banks of this river. They make pipes and earthenware which they exchange with neighboring merchants for such goods as they desire. They may be hired to perform some labor also.

The names of Turkey branch, Rocky branch, Rocky creek and Crooked creek suggest a reason why they are so called. On the banks of one of our branches a deputation of the whites would meet a deputation of Indians in council and transact business and adjust their differences to the satisfaction of all. The council was passed around and all went home in a good humor. From this it was called Deputation branch, which was corrupted to Debutary, which is its name to this day. During the Revolution a Whig drummer was killed on a hill near the Point of Rocks which gave it the name, Drummer's Hill.

### CUSTOMS AND USAGES.

Our first settlers began to come into this section about 1760. They came from Maryland and Virginia principally. How they traveled is not known, probably on horseback or some other vehicle, they owned horses then. Their dwellings were rude log huts as they could build with axes principally. Very few of them had stone chimneys. They cleared a space about their cabins in which to grow their grain and vegetables. Venison was their meat diet. Other animals such as the otter and wild were killed for their skins. Some of these were made into hats and caps, and most of them were sold.

Eliza Dye, grandfather of our friend, R. J. Dye, was the gunsmith of that day and kept the settlers' trusty rifles in good shooting order. His usefulness extended through the Revolution as many of the guns of the Whigs were repaired by him and thus he enabled them to continue in the service.

As the settlers increased in numbers the game became scarcer and wilder. More attention was then given to domestic animals. Horses and cattle kept fat on the commons and hogs were killed in the woods and their flesh cured for the family supply during the next season. They grew tobacco for a money crop. It was hauled to Charleston, but often it was condemned and could not be sold. The vehicle mostly used was the common home made sled in

which crops, firewood, etc., were hauled.

Some of the children of these men could read and write, if not all of them, but they were not very religiously inclined.

### REVOLUTIONARY TIMES.

Charleston fell into the hands of the British, May 12th, 1780. Lord Cornwallis sent detachments of troops to Augusta, Ninety-Six and Camden to insure and hasten the subjugation of this State. From Camden a detachment under Colonel Houseman was sent to Rocky Mount. About one-fourth of a mile northwesterly from the present residence of John G. Johnston, the British built three log forts which they surrounded with a ditch and abatis.

With the advent of Colonel Houseman and his attachment came an end to the feeling of good fellowship of one with another and social intercourse of neighbor with neighbor. This change was brought about by the promises and threats of Colonel Houseman. From this time it was Whig and Tory and a deadly hatred was engendered. Instead of cracking jokes with each other the crack of the deadly rifle was heard. One of the first acts of Houseman was to distribute handbills among the people, calling upon them to meet him at Beckhamville and enroll their names as loyal subjects of King George and receive British protection.

Soon after this he visited Justice John Gaston, who resided on Fishing Creek, to induce him to become a loyal subject to the King, as he verily believed that the old Justice could and would bring many if not all his neighbors to his way of thinking. While the old Justice treated him with all the kindness and courtesy due a visitor, he did not follow his advice. After the officer departed, Justice Gaston sent runners to various places in the community for men to meet at his house that night. The summons were obeyed with alacrity and by midnight thirty men of no mean mould, strong in spirit and of active and powerful frames had collected together.

These men were commanded by John McClure and were armed with the deadly rifle, clad in their hunting shirts and moccasins. With their wool hats and deer-skin caps, their otter-skin shot-bags and butcher knives by their sides, they were ready for any enterprise in the cause of Liberty. Next morning they paraded before the door of the aged patriot and according to the custom of that day he brought out a large case of bottles. Commencing with the officers, John and Hugh McClure, he gave each a hearty hand-shake and then presented the bottle, after which they took their course noiselessly along the old Indian trail down Fishing Creek to the old field near Beckhamville, where many of the people were already gathered. Their sudden onset took by surprise the promiscuous assemblage, about two hundred in number. The enemy were defeated and "their well directed fire," says one who speaks from personal knowledge, "saved a few cowards from the coming Tories, and taught Houseman that the strong log houses at Rocky Mount were safe for his myrmidons."

This encounter was the first effort to breast the stream after the suspension of military opposition, the opening wedge to the recovery of South Carolina.

Filled with rage, Houseman sent a party early next day to bring the hoary-headed patriot, then 80 years of age, to his headquarters, but they found the quarters deserted. His wife concealed in some bushes nearby saw them plunder the house of everything and carry off the stock from the plantation; nothing was left but the family bible, a precious relic which may be still preserved in the family.

John Gaston had nine sons in the army, three of whom were killed and the fourth one shot down at the battle of Hanging Rock. When their mother was informed of these facts, she replied, "I mourn their loss, but they could not have died in a better cause."

(To be continued.)

### Pneumonia Follows a Cold

but never follows the use of Foley's Honey and Tar. It stops the cough, breaks and strengthens the lungs and affords perfect security from an attack of pneumonia. Refuse substitutes. Sold by McMaster Co.

### The Best Book for Boys.

Whitelaw Reid, editor of the New York Tribune, was once asked by a New York merchant what was the best book for him to put into the hands of his clerks for a business hand-book. He recommended "The Book of Proverbs," and the man went to the American Bible Society and bought a lot of them. We give here below a few samples out of the book:

A wise son maketh a glad father. A soft tongue breaketh the bone. Labor not to be rich. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.

Buy the truth and sell it not. Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it sparketh in the cup.

A faithful witness will not lie. The borrower is servant to the lender.

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man.

He that soweth iniquity shall reap calamity.

How much better it is to get wisdom than gold.

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging.

There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker.

If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink. —American Boy.

### Fraud Exposed.

A few counterfeiters have lately been making and trying to sell imitations of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, and others medicines, thereby defrauding the public. This is to warn you to beware of such people, who seek to profit, through stealing the reputation of remedies which have been successfully curing disease, for over 35 years. A sure protection, to you, is our name on the wrapper. Look for it, on all Dr. King's, or Bucklen's, remedies as all others are mere imitations. H. E. BUCKLEN & CO., Chicago, Ill., and Windsor, Canada. McMaster Co. Obeard Drug Co. John H. McMaster & Co drug stores.

### Low Rates via Southern Railway.

The Southern railway gives below a few special low excursion rates to the following points:

To New Orleans, La., Mobile, Ala., and Pensacola, Fla.: One first-class fare plus twenty-five cents for the round trip from all coupon stations. Tickets on sale March 1-6, limited March 11, 1705—may be extended to return March 25th. Account—Mardi Gras.

To Washington, D. C.—Presidential inauguration: For civilians rate one first-class fare plus twenty-five cents for the round trip from all stations. For military companies and brass bands in uniforms accompanying them in parties of twenty or more on one ticket—at one cent per mile plus arbitraries. Tickets sold March 2nd and 3rd, limited March 8th, but may be extended to March 16th.

Very low rates to other points now in effect.

The Southern railway is the best route to the above points—operating through Pullman and dining cars on all through trains. For full information apply to any agent of the Southern railway, or to R. W. Hunt, Division Passenger Agent, Charleston, S. C.

One of the most persistent enemies that a man has to fight with is himself. That enemy has to be fought with at unexpected times and at all times. Yet if a man is determined to win the victory he can be successful even in spite of all the advantages which self has in the contest. And what a victory it is to win in such a fight! Henry Ward Beecher says forcefully, "No man is such a conqueror as the man who has defeated himself." God is with us in this struggle and through him we shall have the sure victory.—Ex.

### Has Stood the Test 25 Years.

The old, original GROVE'S Tasteless Chill Tonic. You know what you are taking. It is iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure, no pay. 50c.

If people could exchange troubles there would be just as much kicking as there is in a horse trade.

Take Murray's Horehound, Mullen and Tar and stop coughing. 25c. for large bottle. Your druggist or Murray Drug Co., Columbia, S. C.

### Tribute to General Lee.

In an address delivered before the Southern Historical society at Atlanta, Ga., February 18, 1874, Senator Ben H. Hill, of Georgia, paid the following most worthy tribute to General Lee:

"When the future historian comes to survey the character of Lee, he will find it rising like a huge mountain above the undulating plain of humanity, and he must lift his eyes high toward heaven to catch its summit. He possessed every virtue of other great commanders without their vices. He was a foe without hate, a friend without treachery, a soldier without cruelty, a victor without oppression, and a victim without murmuring. He was a public officer without vices, a private citizen without wrong, a neighbor without reproach, a Christian without hypocrisy, and a man without guile. He was Caesar without his ambition, Frederick without his tyranny, Napoleon without his selfishness, and Washington without his reward. He was obedient to authority as a servant, and royal in authority as a true king. He was gentle as a woman in life, modest and pure as a virgin in thought, watchful as a Roman vestal in duty, submissive to the law as Socrates, and grand in battle as Achilles!"

### Is It Right?

Is it right that a property-owner should lose \$4.20 to let a dealer make 50 cents? A dealer makes 50 cents more on fourteen gallons of ready-to-use paint, at \$1.50 per gallon, than our agent does on eight gallons of L. & M. paint and six gallons of linseed oil, which make fourteen gallons of the best paint in the world, at \$1.20 per gallon; the property-owner loses just \$4.20. Is it right?

It only requires 4 gallons of L. & M. and 3 gallons linseed oil to paint a moderate sized house. Ten Thousand Churches painted with Longman & Martinez L. & M. Paint.

Liberal quantity given to churches when bought from McMaster Co., Winnsboro; C. P. Wray & Co., Ridgeway; Kennedy Mer. and Banking Co., Blackstock.

Easter Sunday comes this year on the 23d of April. This is within a few days as late as it ever occurs. Only once did it occur as late as the 25th of April in the 19th century. It is booked to come but once again on the 25th of April during the present century. There is a current belief with the people that a late Easter denotes a cold and backward spring. But this does not always follow, since the season, in the presence of a late Easter, may be mild and open.

### A Severe Cold for Three Months.

The following letter from A. J. Nuburn, of Batesville, Ind., tells its own story. "I suffered for three months with a severe cold. A druggist prepared me some medicine, and a physician prescribed for me, yet I did not improve. I then tried Foley's Honey and Tar, and eight days cured me." Refuse substitutes. Sold by McMaster Co.

Too many bills spoil the income.

### The Cause of Many

#### Sudden Deaths.

There is a disease prevailing in this country most dangerous because so deceptive. Many sudden deaths are caused by it—heart disease, pneumonia, heart failure or apoplexy are often the result of kidney disease. If kidney trouble is allowed to advance the kidney-poisoned blood will attack the vital organs, causing catarrh of the bladder, or the kidneys themselves break down and waste away cell by cell. Kidney troubles almost always result from a derangement of the kidneys and a cure is obtained quickest by a proper treatment of the kidneys. If you are feeling badly you can make no mistake by taking Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder remedy. It corrects inability to hold urine and scalding pain in passing it, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to go often through the day, and to get up many times during the night. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases.

Swamp-Root is pleasant to take and is sold by all druggists in fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles. You may have a sample bottle of this wonderful new discovery and a book that tells all about it, both sent free by mail. Address, Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

### A MATTER OF HEALTH



Dr. H. N. Snyder, president of Wofford College, will deliver the commencement address at Clemson in June. Elaborate preparations are being made for what promises to be one of the most memorable commencements in Clemson's history. There will be an unusually large number of alumni present, men who hold high textile, engineering and executive positions all over the country.

### Chamberlain's Cough Remedy the Mother's Favorite.

The soothing and healing properties of this remedy, its pleasant taste and prompt and permanent cures have made it a favorite with people everywhere. It is especially prized by mothers of small children, for colds, croup and whooping cough, as it always affords quick relief, and as it contains no opium or other harmful drug, it may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult. For sale by Obeard Drug Co.

What is the beginning? Love. What the course? Love still. What the goal? The goal is Love on the happy hill.

Is there nothing then but love, search we sky or earth? There is nothing out of Love hath perpetual worth.

—Christina Rossetti, in New York Magazine of Mysteries.

### Advice to the Aged.

Age brings infirmities, such as sluggish bowels, weak kidneys and bladder and TORPID LIVER.

### Tutt's Pills

have a specific effect on these organs, stimulating the bowels, causing them to perform their natural functions as in youth and

IMPARTING VIGOR to the kidneys, bladder and LIVER. They are adapted to old and young.

### Notice of Dissolution.

Notice is hereby given that the business heretofore conducted under the firm name of W. D. Tennant & Co. has been transferred to B. G. Tennant & Company, to whom all old accounts must be paid and who will assume all liabilities of the former firm. With thanks for past patronage and asking for a continuation of the same.

W. D. TENNANT, B. G. TENNANT & CO. Jan. 1, 1905.

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